

A shortened statutory period for response of one (1) month was set for response to the Office Action. Accordingly, a Petition for a one-month extension of time and Form PTO-2038 appropriate in amount to cover the corresponding fee are also enclosed.

REMARKS

Claims 1-55, 57, 59-192 are presently pending in the application. Claims 44-74 and 185-190 have been previously withdrawn from consideration, and claims 1-43, 75-184, 191 and 192 are presented for consideration by the Examiner. Every issue and informal requirement raised in the Office Action has been addressed by this Response.

In the August 18, 2006 Office Action, it was noted that the undue multiplicity rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 had not yet been withdrawn. However, the previous Office Action dated April 5, 2006 specifically states "The rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 shall be withdrawn without prejudice such that all elected claims will be examined on their merits." Thus, once the informalities contained in the August 18, 2006 Office Action are adequately addressed then the undue multiplicity rejection "shall be withdrawn without prejudice."

The current, August 18, 2006, Office Action in conjunction with the prior, April 5, 2006, Office Action did, however, informally require Applicant to submit a listing of all pending

dependent claims briefly summarized and grouped according to their common subject matter, which may be done through a chart, graph, or list. It should be noted that while various features of the dependent claims are summarized below, many of said dependent claims may include common or dominant elements and are sufficiently similar to merit examination in the same application. We have not summarized the common or dominant elements among dependent claims, because such elements are clearly identified in said dependent claims, and the claims themselves are their own summary. In order to be responsive to the informal requirement raised in the Office Action, Applicant submits the following chart summarizing and grouping dependent claims only for substantive examination, as the independent claims have been adequately summarized and grouped in Applicant's Response D.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS IN CURRENT APPLICATION	BRIEF SUMMARY OF SUBJECT MATTER
2, 12, 191 and 192	Dependent claims 2, 12, 191 and 192 are directed, at least in part, to a connecting member having a second through passage.
3, 28, 76, 93, 110, 128, 145 and 192	Dependent claims 3, 28, 76, 93, 110, 128, 145 and 192 are directed, at least in part, to a male tapered portion of the fastening member being longer than the female tapered first through passage of the connecting member.
4 and 5	Dependent claims 4 and 5 are directed, at least in part, to features of a set screw.

6, 15, 29, 77, 94, 111, 113, 130, 146 and 192	Dependent claims 6, 15, 29, 77, 94, 111, 113, 130, 146 and 192 are directed, at least in part, to a bend in elongate support member.
7, 30, 78, 95, 112, 129, 147 and 192	Dependent claims 7, 30, 78, 95, 112, 129, 147 and 192 are directed, at least in part, to a gripping member.
8, 19, 34, 82, 99, 117, 134, 150, 171, 172 and 192	Dependent claims 8, 19, 34, 82, 99, 117, 134, 150, 171, 172 and 192 are directed, at least in part, to a stem member.
9, 32, 80, 97, 115, 132 and 192	Dependent claims 9, 32, 80, 97, 115, 132 and 192 are directed, at least in part, to an angle formed between the upper axis and the lower axis of connecting member that is greater than zero degrees.
10	Dependent claim 10 is directed, at least in part, to a connecting member having a limited degree of resiliency.
11, 191 and 192	Dependent claims 11, 191 and 192 are directed, at least in part, to a male-tapered external portion of the fastening member having a female-threaded recess.
13, 31, 79, 96, 114, 131, 148 and 192	Dependent claims 13, 31, 79, 96, 114, 131, 148 and 192 are directed, at least in part, to a fastening member comprising a mid-collar.
14	Dependent claim 14 is directed, at least in part, to the length of a second side of a fastening member is at least three times a length of a first side.
16, 35, 83, 100, 118, 135, 151, 174 and 192	Dependent claims 16, 35, 83, 100, 118, 135, 151, 174 and 192 are directed, at least in part, to a disengaging means.
17, 36, 84, 101, 119, 136, 152, 173 and 192	Dependent claims 17, 36, 84, 101, 119, 136, 152, 173 and 192 are directed, at least in part, to an aligning means.

18, 33, 81, 98, 116, 133, 149 and 192	Dependent claims 18, 33, 81, 98, 116, 133, 149 and 192 are directed, at least in part, to a connecting member having a lower portion that is twice the size of an upper portion.
19, 34, 82, 99, 117, 134, 150 and 192	Dependent claims 19, 34, 82, 99, 117, 134, 150 and 192 are directed, at least in part, to an elongate support member and a stem portion having equal diameters.
20, 37, 85, 102, 120, 137, 153, 162 and 178	Dependent claims 20, 37, 85, 102, 120, 137, 153, 162 and 178 are directed, at least in part, to a fastener having a first head portion and a second head portion.
21, 22, 38, 39, 86, 87, 103, 104, 121, 122, 138, 139, 154, 155, 163, 164, 179 and 180	Dependent claims 21, 22, 38, 39, 86, 87, 103, 104, 121, 122, 138, 139, 154, 155, 163, 164, 179 and 180 are directed, at least in part, to a first head portion that may be cylindrical and a second head portion that may be tapered.
23, 24, 40, 41, 88, 89, 105, 106, 123, 124, 140, 141, 156, 157, 165, 166, 181 and 182	Dependent claims 23, 24, 40, 41, 88, 89, 105, 106, 123, 124, 140, 141, 156, 157, 165, 166, 181 and 182 are directed, at least in part, to a first head portion that may be tapered and a second head portion that may be cylindrical.
25, 42, 90, 107, 125, 142, 158, 167 and 183	Dependent claims 25, 42, 90, 107, 125, 142, 158, 167 and 183 are directed, at least in part, to a first head portion and a second head portion both being tapered.
26, 43, 91, 108, 126, 143, 159, 168 and 184	Dependent claims 26, 43, 91, 108, 126, 143, 159, 168 and 184 are directed, at least in part, to a first head portion and a second head portion both being cylindrical.
161 and 176	Dependent claims 161 and 176 are directed, at least in part, to a fastening member having threads for insertion into the bone.

169 and 177	Dependent claims 169 and 177 are directed, at least in part, to a morse taper locking fit between a connecting member and a fastening member.
170	Dependent claim 170 is directed, at least in part, to an intercoupling means including a c-clamp.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that all of the claims under examination are allowable, and a finding of the same is respectfully requested. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Response paper and consideration of these remarks, and such impediment could be alleviated during a telephone interview, the Examiner is invited to initiate the same.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 50-0836.

DATED this 21 day of September, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,



Karl R. Cannon
Attorney Registration No. 36,468
Attorney for Applicant

Clayton, Howarth & Cannon, P.C.
P.O. Box 1909
Sandy, UT 84091
Telephone: (801) 255-5335
Facsimile: (801) 255-5338

KRC/TJE

S:\CHC Files\T 9--\T97--\T9742\Response E.wpd